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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

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Noise levels in B'luru's silent zones and residential areas are above permissible limits while even industrial and commercial areas are keeping it in control

QUIET PLEASE!

Activists say noisy vehicular traffic is due to lack of awareness, poor enforcement of rules

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The silent zones and residential areas of Bengaluru are noisier than industrial and commercial areas in the city.

According to the noise pollution data of July by the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB), the monitoring station at RVCE on Mysore Road, a silent zone, has recorded a monthly average noise level of 82.1 dB during the day and a staggering 82.9 dB at night.

Similarly, NIMHANS station, another silent zone in the city, has recorded a monthly average noise level of 59.3 dB at night and 64 dB during the day. In BTM Layout, a residential area, it was recorded to be 71.9 dB during the day and 69.8 dB during the night.

On the other hand, the noise level in the Peenya Industrial area was within the permissible limits. The station recorded a monthly average of 65.5 dB during the day and 63.6 dB during the night.

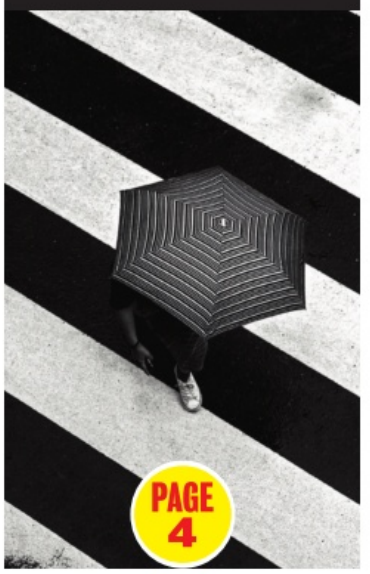
As per Central Pollution Control Board specifications, the permissible sound level (dB) in a silent zone during the day is 50 dB and during the night time is 40 dB. In the case of residential areas, the permissible limits are 55 dB for the day and 45 dB during the night. The permissible noise level for industrial areas is

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

"Our ICU section is towards the main road and due to relentless honking, patients do not get as much rest as needed. Although we have installed noise-cancellation windows, we are still troubled – Private hospital employee

RIGHT OF WAY

Citizens demand pedestrian plazas as spaces for walkers, cyclists shrink



PAGE 4

SENSODYNE

TOOTH SENSITIVITY IS A SIGN
YOUR TEETH ARE CHANGING

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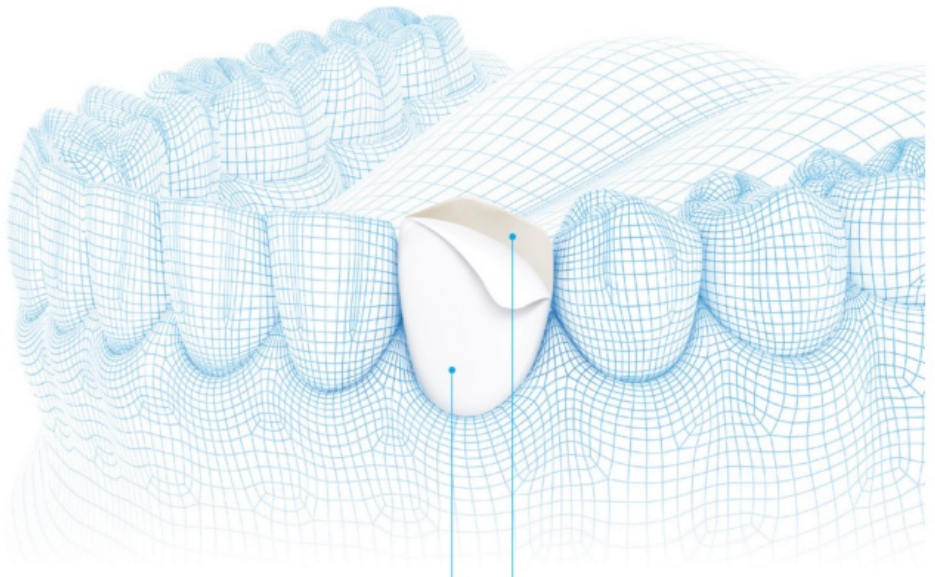

TOOTH ENAMEL
Tooth enamel is the strongest outer layer that protects your teeth from damage.

ENAMEL EROSION
Over time, due to hard brushing or acidic diet (coffee, carbonated drinks, etc.), enamel starts to erode and exposes sensitive parts of your teeth.

PM-IN-SENO-23-00030

*The underlying cause leading to tooth sensitivity may aggravate if not managed. Sensitive teeth may indicate an underlying problem that needs prompt care. If symptoms persist or worsen, visit your dentist. *With twice daily brushing. Use as directed on the pack. © 2023 and Trademarks are owned by or licensed to the GSK group of companies. Creative Visualisation.

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Quiz hour

Union Bank of India presents the national level of general awareness quiz competition- U Genius 2023. All the students from class 8th to 12th are eligible for participation in quiz and nomination must be sent through schools only. After city rounds the national semi final and final will be conducted in Mumbai. City level competition is organised in Bengaluru. Interested students/ school can register before August 22 by visiting any nearest Union Bank. Nominated students from school are requested to report at quiz venue at 8:30 am on August 24, along with school ID Card for registration and participation.
Where: Jnana Jyoti Auditorium, Palace Road, Ambedkar Veedhi, Gandhi Nagar; When: August 24

02 Act now

If you are interested in acting, then here's your chance to attend the 10th edition of Act One. The introductory workshop in theatre will engage you in a process of understanding one's body, finding a voice, discovering confidence, learning to observe, or simply finding joy. Anyone over 16 years old can participate. **Where: Lahe Lahe When: Saturday and Sunday, August 26 and 27; contact: 9739450835**

03 Fabrics matter

GoCoop is hosting 'Go Swadeshi', a handloom exhibition that showcases a wide range of authentic handloom sarees, fabrics, dress materials, stoles, dupattas, menswear, home decor, and more. The event aims to support artisans and weavers from Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, and West Bengal. **Where: Shilpakala Kalyana Mandapa, Phase 3, JP Nagar, Bannerghatta Road When: until August 20; 11 am to 8 pm**

Who has exam fever?

State introduces student-friendly reforms to expedite supplementary examination for II PU students; lecturers oppose idea of additional exam

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PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Amidst developments, faculty members have raised concerns regarding the model question papers provided for the exams

Typically, it is a common occurrence for students to reject exams while lecturers insist on their necessity. However, in a surprising role reversal, the II PU level is currently witnessing a unique scenario. While students are advocating for an additional exam, lecturers are firmly opposing the idea.

In a significant departure from the past, the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) has introduced student-friendly reforms to expedite the supplementary examination process for II PU students. Traditionally, students who did not clear the II PU exams had to wait an entire year to attempt a supplementary exam. However, the department has taken proactive steps to address this issue by introducing supplementary exams within a month. Now, the second supplementary exam is also conducted in a short time.

An official said, "The department swiftly conducted the first supplementary exam within a month of announcing the results, benefiting countless students. Building on this initiative, the department is now introducing a second supplementary exam for those who were unsuccessful in the initial supplementary attempt. Around 1.2 lakh students have registered for these upcoming second supplementary exams."

Gopalakrishna HN, director (exams) of KSEAB, said, "The overwhelming number of registrations for the second supplementary exam is truly heartening. We are fully committed to conducting these exams efficiently. To facilitate the preparation process, we have already provided model question papers." In the first supplementary exams, approximately 1.6 lakh students participated. However, this innovative approach has sparked concerns among faculty members.

Some educators argue that colleges already administer half-yearly exams in addition to the two supplementary exams and the annual exams. Juggling these four crucial examinations—overseeing, paper-setting, and evaluation—places a considerable burden on faculty members.

Moreover, this workload intensifies the stress they face, compelling them to ensure the timely completion of course content.

A lecturer, who opted to remain anonymous, said, "We have approached the department with a request to reconsider the second supplementary exams, but unfortunately, our appeal has not elicited a response." The eagerly anticipated second supplementary exams are scheduled to take place from August 21 to September 2 at 274 designated centres across the state. The initial supplementary exams were conducted between May and June, following the annual II PU exams held in March.

> **"The department is introducing a second supplementary exam for those who were unsuccessful in initial attempt** –an official

Out of the 7,02,067 students who appeared for the annual exams, 5,24,209 students (74.67%) emerged successful. Of the remaining 1.77 lakh students who did not pass, 1.60 lakh undertook the first supplementary exams. Now, with the second supplementary opportunity, 1.2 lakh students are preparing to tackle their academic challenges once more.

Amidst these developments, faculty members have raised concerns regarding the model question papers provided for the exams. A faculty member expressed dismay, pointing out, "We have identified several mistakes in the model question papers. Typically, these question papers are crafted by experts. However, the current state of the model question papers leaves us questioning the expertise involved."

Reacting to this, Gopalakrishna added, "We remain open to addressing any queries and plan to release the final model question paper soon."

Finally, it is easy, breezy in B'luru again

IMD has predicted the likelihood of light rain or thundershower in certain areas

City's weather took on a 'hill station' vibe once again on Saturday, as certain areas experienced a bout of moderate rainfall. According to the latest updates from Namma Karnataka weather tweets, "The low-pressure area previously over the north Bay of Bengal has now moved inland, triggering a surge in the monsoon along the west coast.

The peak conditions are anticipated to last for three days, from August 18 to 20. Over the past 24 hours, this shift has led to increased rainfall in the coastal and Malnad regions."

The tweet further said that while these areas have witnessed moderate rainfall so far, there is optimism for heavy downpours within the next 36 hours.

Beyond that timeframe, the intensity of the surge will wane. Bengaluru is expected to have overcast skies and breezy conditions, with the chance of sporadic light rain across the city.

In the same vein, the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted the likelihood of light rain or thundershowers in certain areas, accompanied by intermittently strong surface winds. Meanwhile, the southwest monsoon has maintained its normal trajectory over the state.

Noteworthy rainfall figures include Kota (Udupi district) receiving 7 cm and Honavar (Uttara Kannada district) recording 6 cm of rainfall. As the weather continues to shift, residents can anticipate varied conditions across the city and surrounding regions. **— BMB**

People covering themselves on Raj Bhavan Road on Saturday

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INNOCEAN-060/23

Can pedestrian dream of right of way in city?

Citizens demand pedestrian plazas as spaces for walkers shrink

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PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Pedestrian plazas will have facilities like designated walkways, cycling lanes, parking areas, and certain stretches with two-lane roadways

As part of the Chennai Mega Streets project, the Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has made the decision to establish 13 pedestrian plazas across the city. A total distance of 50 kilometres will be transformed into pedestrian plazas featuring designated walkways, cycling lanes, parking areas, and certain stretches with two-lane roadways. Bengaluru residents have also voiced their demand for similar plazas to be introduced in their city.

Siddharaju, a resident, emphasised the necessity of such plazas due to the continual reduction of space available for pedestrians and cyclists within the city. He stressed that after the plazas are constructed, authorities must ensure their meticulous maintenance. "We frequently witness illegal parking encroaching on pavements and the inadequate length of cycle lanes being taken over by two-wheelers.

The Bangalore Traffic Police (BTP) can take the lead in ensuring that only plaza users have access," he suggested. Additionally, he proposed that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) could address the issue by appointing a watchman to safeguard the area.

Another resident, Gouthami, urged the government to allocate funds toward revitalising deteriorating pedestrian pathways and cycle lanes. "Cycle lanes are scarcely present in the city and require immediate attention.

In several places, bollards used to mark lanes have been removed by the municipal body. These should be reinstalled as a priority," she urged.

> **"This expansion would encourage many to opt for cycling from home to their destinations. The entire city can become a secure environment**
> – Gouthami, a resident

Gouthami further stressed the importance of actively connecting cycle lanes across the city, expanding their network and accessibility.

"This expansion would encourage many to opt for cycling from home to their destinations. With a plaza in place, cyclists would have to navigate through heavy traffic to access their safe cycling zone. The entire city should be transformed into a secure environment," she explained.

Varun Gowda, another resident, said that immediate renovation should be directed at frequently used footpaths, such as those around metro stations. "While plazas might seem like a positive idea, the municipal body should primarily concentrate on repairing broken footpaths, especially in high-traffic areas," he said.

NCMC now available at metro stations

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

Promoting RuPay NCMC adoption is the prime focus of this initiative

In a significant development for metro commuters, the National Common Mobility Card (NCMC) can now be obtained directly from Metro stations. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) has initiated proactive steps to phase out its closed-loop Smart Cards, with the intent of addressing the inconvenience caused by the need to carry multiple cards for both travel and shopping purposes.

The prime focus of this initiative is to promote the adoption of the RuPay National Common Mobility Card (NCMC), which will be conveniently available for purchase at all Metro stations during operational hours. Notably, the sale of Contactless Smart Cards (CSC) will be restricted to specific time slots between 8:00 am to 11:00 am and 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

The Namma Metro Contactless Smart Cards (CSC) are designed solely for travel within the Namma Metro system. In contrast, the RuPay NCMC, functioning as open-loop cards, aligns with the "One Nation One Card" initiative, enabling interoperability across various transport systems nationwide wherever the concept is implemented. This holistic approach ensures a seamless travel experience. Additionally, the versatile Single NCMC can be used for shopping at retail outlets and petrol stations, among other locations.

To enhance the convenience of purchasing NCMC cards across all Metro stations, the BMRCL is set to streamline the process starting August 21, 2023. Passengers are encouraged to complete a simple registration process on the "nammametro.agsindia.com" website or through the "BMRCL RBL Bank NCMC" mobile application. Registering with either of these platforms and sharing the registration number or linked mobile number at the ticket counters will enable a hassle-free issuance of NCMC cards. The NCMC is available at a nominal cost of Rs 50 and offers the same 5% travel fare discount as Smart Cards. Notably, RuPay National Common Mobility Cards (NCMCs) are also obtainable at all RBL Banks. — BMB

Ejipura flyover requires another ₹100 crore

The stalled Ejipura flyover project requires an additional Rs 100 crore for completion. The cabinet must now decide whether the state government will allocate new funding or consider alternative measures. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, after inspecting the Ejipura flyover, expressed, "This 3 kilometre long flyover has been under construction for several years since its initiation in 2017. Despite the duration, only 35% of the work has been completed. The contracting company responsible for the project encountered issues that led to a halt in the work. After issuing a notice and subsequently cancelling the initial tender, a new tender process was initiated. Unfortunately, there has been no expression of interest from other entities for the project. — BMB

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Walk the line

Basaveshwaranagar

In Kamalanagar Market, Basaveshwaranagar, commodities from a fish shop are placed on the pavement, even when the shop is closed, causing difficulties for pedestrians.

Risky junction

Lavelle Road

Months after excavation, the Lavelle Road and 4th Cross intersection, adjacent to High Gloss, has turned perilous, putting commuters at risk.

Dire neglect

Thambuchetty Road

Neglected for over a year, the Thambuchetty Road – Webster Road junction remains the same despite being used daily by thousands.

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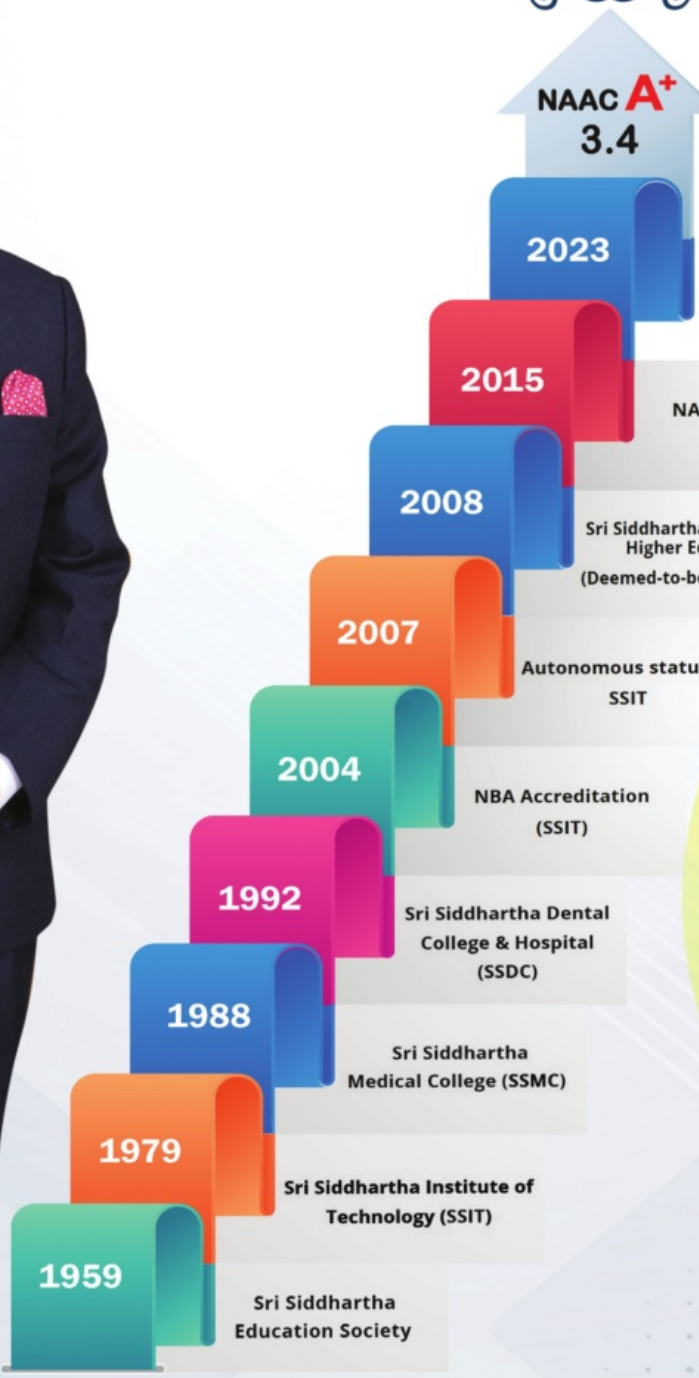

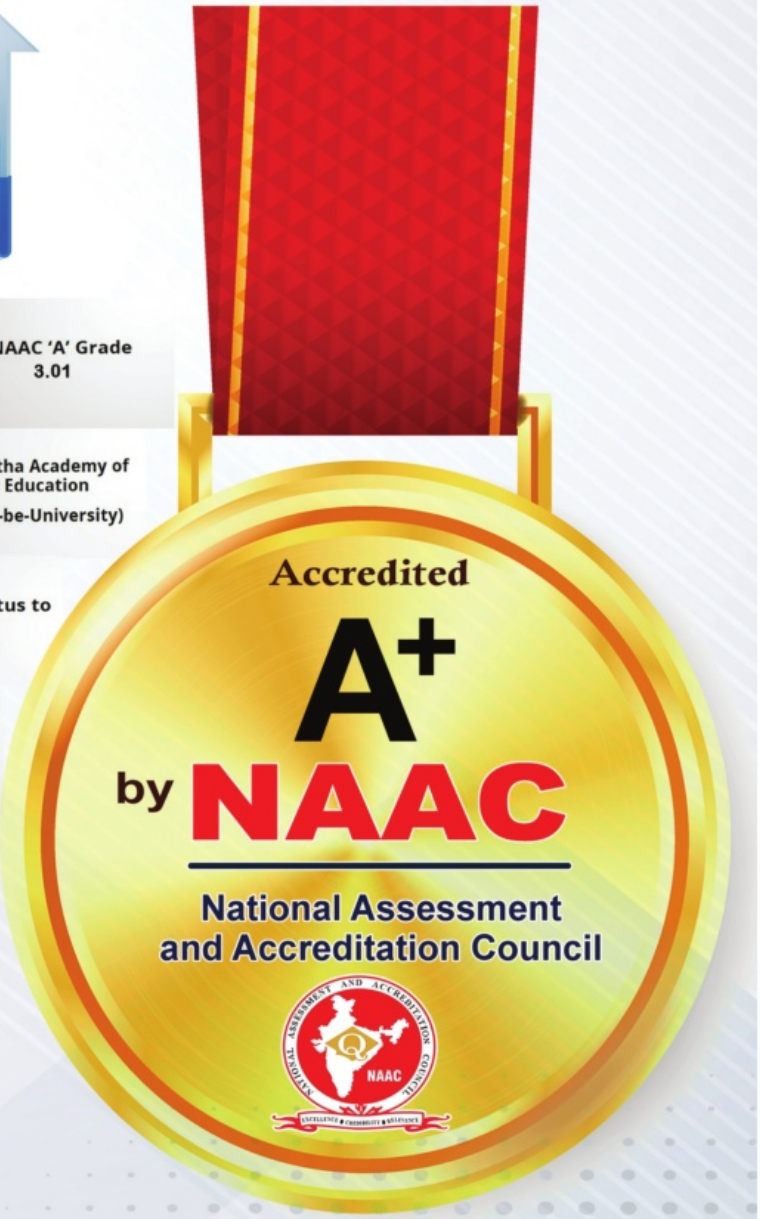

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What's in a name? A lot if it is to do with wards

After the change in government, comes the change in BBMP ward names

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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

In the ever-changing governance landscape, nomenclatures wield significant influence, particularly in political leadership transitions. With the Congress government assuming power in the state, the Bangalore Bruhat Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) ward names have undergone a series of alterations. The previously introduced names, such as Chatrapati Shivaji, Chanakya, Kanneshwara Ram, Veera Madakari, Ranadheera Kanteerava, Veerasindhura Lakshmana, Vijayanagara Krishnadevaraya, Sir M Visvesvaraya, and Nalwadi Krisharaja Wadiyar – proposed during the BJP government's tenure – have been replaced in the latest ward list announced last Friday. The updated list retains only a few names, including Kempegowda (ward number 1), Dr Puneeth Rajkumar (ward number 50), and Dr Rajkumar (ward number 135), showcasing a discerning preservation of select prominent figures in the nomenclature.

The naming of these wards had previously stirred considerable controversy during the previous round of delimitation. Interestingly, out of the 3,833 objections received concerning the initial draft notification outlining plans for 243 wards, a notable 51 percent of these objections were directly tied to the nomenclature of the wards themselves. This issue ignited significant public discourse and debate. As history often repeats itself, officials are anticipating a similar surge of objections this time, as individuals are inclined to closely scrutinise and question the current naming decisions.

A prevailing concern revolves around the demarcation of ward boundaries. The process of defining these boundaries has frequently been the subject of scrutiny and critique, and the impending delimitation is not expected to be an exception. In the past, such concerns have manifested in the form of public protests.

Latest ward list was announced on Friday in which only a few old names are retained

Of 3,833 objections received concerning initial draft notification outlining plans for delimitation of 243 wards, a notable 51% were directly tied to nomenclature of the wards themselves

Previously, protests had successfully compelled the then-BJP government to succumb to residents' pressure and retain the name "Kengeri" within the ward list. Interestingly, this naming issue appears to transcend political affiliations, as the current Congress government has chosen to maintain continuity by retaining the name "Kengeri."

A closer examination of the ward delimitation reveals a decrease in the number of wards in constituencies represented by BJP legislators. While the original ward count was formulated around a population of 35,000 per ward, the revised list indicates an approximate population of 37,527 per ward. The reduction of 18 wards from the initial 243 predominantly affects constituencies represented by saffron legislators.

Reflecting on the history of ward delimitation, the State Government issued a notification on July 14, 2022, proposing a total of 243 wards within the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike – an increase from the previous 198 – based on recommendations from a dedicated committee. However, legal challenges emerged as writ petitions contested the notification in the High Court. In a subsequent turn of events, the single bench of the High Court dismissed these petitions on September 16, 2022.

Subsequently, a fresh legal chapter unfolded, with a few individuals appealing the single bench's ruling before the division bench. On June 19, 2023, the division bench directed the State Government to conduct a renewed delimitation process while adhering to established guidelines. In response, the State Government reconstituted the Commission for Delimitation of Wards on June 26, placing the Chief Commissioner at its helm. This panel was entrusted with the task of reevaluating and redefining ward boundaries.

The outcome of this comprehensive endeavour materialised in a fresh ward list recently unveiled, reducing the original 243 wards to 225. Individuals seeking to voice concerns, objections, or suggestions regarding the newly proposed ward delineation have a two-week window to do so, starting from the issuance of the notification. This process underscores the intricate interplay of governance, legal challenges, and public participation in shaping the urban administrative structure.

Noisy bunch

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

74 dB during the day and 70 dB during the night.

KSPCB has 10 noise monitoring stations across the city under various categories, including silence zones and residential, commercial, and industrial areas, monitoring stations record the noise level in decibels (dB) originating from vehicular traffic, civil works, and industry.

Patients inconvenienced

According to a city-based private hospital, high levels of noise pollution has led to many patients complaining as it is uncomfortable for them.

"We have had patients complaining about it. Our hospital is located on the main road and even if traffic is not bad, drivers honk unnecessarily. Patients and their families are already stressed when they reach the hospital. The additional high pitch noise leads to more problems. Our ICU section is towards the main road and due to relentless honking, patients do not get as much rest as needed. Although we have installed noise-cancellation windows, we are still troubled," said the employee of a city-based private hospital.

Anti-noise pollution activists say high noise pollution, mostly due to vehicular traffic, is due to a lack of awareness and poor enforcement of noise pollution rules.

Section 194(F) of the Motor Vehicle Act, 1988 states that people sounding the horn needlessly or continuously or more than necessary to ensure safety in silence zones shall be punishable with a fine of one thousand rupees and for a second or subsequent offense with a fine of Rs 2,000.

"People are not aware that there are silent zones in the area and thus honk relentlessly around hospitals and schools. Citizens are also not aware of the penalties under the Motor Vehicle Act. This is also because there is zero enforcement of the rule in Bengaluru. They are also unaware of the health impacts of noise pollution. While many cities in the country have come up with awareness drives around the issue, Bangalore Traffic Police has chosen to ignore it," said Rajkumar Dugar, an anti-noise pollution activist and founder of Citizen for Citizen.

Get driving licence by post at your doorstep in 1 day

Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Soon Bengalureans who clear the driving licence test will be able to start driving with a complete licence (DL) within a day of qualifying for it. And what is more, it will be delivered to the doorstep of the applicants.

The Transport Department has tied up with the Karnataka Postal Circle to deliver documents like DL and registration certificate (RC) through speed post. The state government has approved this and a memorandum has been signed between both the departments on the Book Now Pay Later basis. In an order dated June 3, 2023, the government asked all transport officials to issue DL and RCs in an envelope. The DL and RC being delivered will also carry instructional letters for the applicants.

Applicants will be able to track the speed post online which is another attempt by the transport department to provide contactless services.

Confirming the move, a senior transport official told BM, "We are planning a postal delivery of the documents. We have tied up with the postal department to take the DL and RC from our office and deliver it to the doorstep. People will be able to track the delivery on the postal portal. We entered into an agreement with the postal department for the services on Friday."

However, the exact roll-out period for the services is not yet known.

Apart from this, the transport department has been providing several contactless services. Currently, they offer 15 Sarathi-related services and 19 Vaahan-related services.

File photo of driving tracks for those applying for licence

Of close encounter with danger and 'cooked-up' stories

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Robbery and burglary rates continue to soar across the city as yet another incident of physical assault was recorded on Saturday. The victim of this crime was a watchman, who was attacked by a sword-wielding biker with a backpack near the convent on McPherson Road around 5:30 am when the victim had gone to have his morning coffee.

The cameras in the area recorded this incident and it is being postulated that the biker arrived at the scene of the crime from the side of a supermarket. The police were informed immediately of this incident and as informed by the sources, the police have recorded a formal complaint and are currently looking for the accused.

This recent attack on an on-duty watchman armed with a baton has the residents of Frazer Town concerned about their safety. A source stated that, "This is the second time such an attack has taken place in a month, which has left the community to gather behind the idea of privately hired security staff with constant camera vigilance and frequent

patrols since neither the police nor the untrained guards could act as suitable deterrence against a series of attempted robberies and burglaries."

Racist attack story

A man who hails from Sikkim claimed that he had become the victim of an assault that included the use of racist epithets early on Wednesday morning. However, later police claimed the man had made up the story.

Dinesh Subba, 30, claimed that the three men who attacked him called him 'Chinese' and taunted him before assaulting him with a blunt weapon in Electronic City. Subba, a waiter at a hotel, is said to have been out drinking with his brother and a friend. As he was on his way back home, he said the group hounded him.

Subba claimed in his police complaint that despite telling the attackers he was Indian, they continued to harass him. DCP South East CK Baba said the man had fallen in an inebriated condition after the party. "Onlookers who've seen him bleeding called the 112 number and police have rushed there and taken his complaint of assault. The DCP said the complaint was false.

"No one beat him and he cooked up the story that he was beaten up and called Chinese by local residents. As he was supposed to give reason to his wife for why he was late," the DCP South East said.

(Inputs from agencies)

No taxes if we have to fix roads ourselves

Citizens get together to repair broken road in Chikkanayakanahalli with their own money. If no one is listening, why pay tax, they wonder

Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Fed up with poor infrastructural development in Chikkanayakanahalli for nearly 10 years, residents of East Bengaluru have started a new campaign 'No Development No Taxes'. Citizens say that the decision was taken after they had to spend out of their pockets to fix the roads in the area.

After seeing several accidents in the area, residents of East Bengaluru decided to fix the roads themselves by spending nearly Rs 50,000 from their pockets. The accidents involving some serious ones, they said, were the result of potholes on the roads and certain stretches of crumbled roads. Residents then questioned the purpose of paying taxes if there is no action from officials and MLAs.

The residents started the work of repairing the roads from August 14 onwards and it is ongoing.

Arif Mudgal of Citizens Movement, East Bengaluru, told BM, "The government officials and elected representatives are not doing their job. In the last 10 years, the complete road was not asphalted. In the last 1.5 years, it has become riddled with potholes and has caused several accidents. We decided to take action to rectify the roads as requesting the officials concerned has turned futile. MLAs say that funds have been stopped and panchayat officials say that residents need to approach the Public Works Department (PWD), and PWD consistently insists that they are short of funds."

He said they were spurred into action after four recent accidents. "We did not even wait to pool the money. I paid the money to get the repairs done. In total, it cost us Rs 46,000 to conduct the repairs and get a concrete mixer truck. Additionally, we are also spending Rs 1,200 per day to get a water tanker to pour over the concrete for 15 days, " he added.

Residents of Chikkanayakanahalli hired a concrete mixer truck to fix the potholes on the road

> **It cost us ₹46,000 for the repairs and to get a concrete mixer truck. We are spending ₹1,200 a day to get a water tanker to pour over the concrete for 15 days**
>
> –Arif Mudgal, Citizens' Movement

According to residents of the area, some of these accidents have led to commuters suffering from grave injuries like a hurt backbone injuries and leg.

Further, residents are planning to lay wet mix on the Sarjapura Road to the Chikkanayakanahalli stretch and have agreed with the contractor to take up the work for Rs 14,000.

Residents say that they are planning to withhold paying taxes for a year.

"If we don't pay taxes for one year and citizens are given charge, we will be able to solve the issues. Several residents have shown their support for the idea. We can build good roads with footpaths and drainage with one year's taxes. We are pushing the proposal to the Panchayat as well. Hopefully, this draws the attention of the state government," he added.

Fire breaks out in 2 coaches of train at KSR stn

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

A fire broke out in two AC coaches of the Mumbai-Bengaluru Udyan Express, train number 11301, at KSR Bengaluru station on Saturday. Since all of the passengers deboarded, there were no injuries or casualties reported.

The train pulled up at the station around 5:45 am, but smoke coming from the coaches was discovered only over an hour and a half after the train arrived. The fire department was called right away, and they arrived at the scene at 7.35 am.

A four-person committee has been established by the South Western Railway to look into the incident.

Fire personnel douse a fire that broke out in the Udyan Express at KSR railway station, in Bengaluru

A junior administrative grade officer, as well as representatives from the mechanical, security, and electrical & safety departments, will be the part of the investigation committee.

"The fire may have started because of a short circuit in coach B1, according to preliminary investigation," said Superintendent of Police, Railways, Soumyalatha SK.

She added that to find out if any criminals were engaged in the incident, they are reviewing the CCTV footage.

The three coaches were all transported to the train station's coach care facility. Additionally, a forensics team was called to gather samples from the coaches for examination. The SP stated that the FSL report wouldn't be available until the next week, till then the police can't determine the exact cause of the incident.

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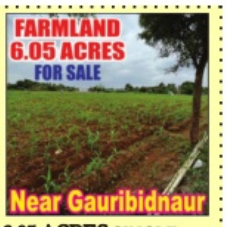

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3 MLCs nominated by Governor

Governor Thaawar Chand Gehlot nominated three individuals for the position of MLCs on Saturday. The nominees include former film actress turned politician Umashree, former Minister MR Seetharam, and HP Sudham Das. While Umashree had previously held the role of an MLA, she encountered defeat in the 2018 elections.

Despite expectations that she might secure an MLA ticket for the 2023 polls, the Congress party denied her the opportunity. As a result, she has now been accommodated as an MLC.

Seetharam, who previously held the position of an MLA representing Malleswaram and even served as a Cabinet minister, chose not to contest as an MLA in the 2023 elections. Now, he has been offered the chance to serve in the upper house.

According to official sources, Seetharam is being nominated under the educationist quota, Umashree for her contribution as an actor, and Das for social work.

However, the nomination of Das faced substantial opposition, reportedly encountering resistance from several Congress legislators.

Four senior ministers of the Siddaramaiah cabinet -- G Parameshwara, KH Muniyappa, HC Mahadevappa and RB Timmapur -- had recently written to the Congress high command, including AICC President Mallikarjun Kharge and former President Sonia Gandhi, expressing their discontent, especially to the nomination of Das.

Nevertheless, the decision of the High Command ultimately prevailed, leading to his nomination.

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CHANGE OF NAME

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I POLUKONDA LAXMI BHARGAVI, W/o. P Vasantha Rai, R/o Flat No 201,Mathapathi Shine Apartment,4th Cross, Abbiahreddy Layout, Kaggadasapura, Bangalore-560093, have changed my Name from CH LAXMIBHARGAVI to POLUKONDA LAXMI BHARGAVI for all future purposes.

I, SYEDA AFSAR BANU, W/o Syed Alim Raza R/at Alipur village, Gouribidanur Taluk, Chikkaballapur District, Karnataka have changed my Name to AFSAR BATHUL, vide affidavit dated 27.07.2023 sworn before notary HM Adi Narayan Gowada, Chikkaballapur.

tender & notices

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that our client is desirous of entering into a joint Development Agreement in respect of Site Nos: 1334,1335 1336 & 1337 hereinafter referred to as Schedule Property formed out of Sy No 28/3A situated at Munigappa Layout Main Road, Kavalbyrasadra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk from its present owner SRI D SRIDHAR, S/o Late M Doddanna, No 415, MM Layout, K B Sandra, R. T. Nagar Post Bangalore-560032

Any person/s having or claiming any manner of right, title, claim lien or interest in the Schedule Property may intimate the same in writing to the undersigned along with documentary evidence in support of their claim within 14 days from the date of this publication, failing which, our client will be advised to proceed with the joint development Agreement as if no valid claims are subsisting against the Schedule Property.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Site Nos: 1334,1335 1336 & 1337 hereinafter referred to as Schedule Property formed out of Sy No 28/3A situated at Munigappa Layout Main Road, Kavalbyrasadra Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk Total land measures 7500 Sq. Feet

(S.A.H. RAZVI)
PRIME LAW ASSOCIATES
2nd Floor, M.M. Complex No. 60, Chick Bazaar Road, Tasker Town, Bangalore-560 051
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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

A tusker chasing a herd of cattle in the backwaters of Kabini

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Sanat**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Risky affair: Walk in pitch darkness

Residents of Kempegowda Main Road, Hospital Road, and nearby areas complain about non-functional street lights

Sridhar Vivan
sridhar.vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Bengaluru has a peculiar problem. In some of the areas, the streetlights are switched on 24 hours a day, while in other areas, they are never lit, turning the streets into dark zones. Walking at night is nothing more than a nightmarish experience.

Worse, the residents who have been complaining to Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) are finding it tough to get a response. Shivprasad S, a resident, said, "For the past several months, residents of Kempegowda Main Road, Hospital Road, and nearby areas have been grappling with the absence of functioning street lights, creating significant inconvenience and safety hazards.

Despite repeated complaints and appeals to the concerned authorities, the issue remains unresolved, leaving citizens in distress and officials seemingly indifferent."

Many added that the condition raises safety concerns among pedestrians.

Another resident explained, "The prolonged lack of street lights has rendered footpaths hazardous, with garbage, stones, and potholes accumulating, posing risks to pedestrians navigating between vehicles. The situation has sparked widespread concerns about safety and has impacted daily life for the local populace."

Furthermore, the residents said they have been complaining to the BBMP helpline, and every time they message, they get a reply that the complaint has been registered. However, there is no forward movement. "We are literally tired of complaining. Our areas are like border areas, which fall under the jurisdiction of two constituencies: Gandhinagar and Chickpet.

While Gandhinagar is represented by Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundurao, Chickpet is represented by BJP MLA Uday Garudachar. We wonder whether our complaints are not heard because we are in the border zones.

We just hope that our voices will be heard and that swift action will be taken to address this critical issue, restoring streetlights and thereby ensuring safety and convenience in the affected areas," mentioned another resident.

Despite repeated complaints about the non-functional street lights, the issue remains unresolved

DID YOU KNOW?

Vasanth Nagar is considered to be one of the most prominent places in Bengaluru. The area is known for having popular destinations like the Bangalore Palace, Vidhana Soudha, and Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium. It also houses the popular institution for women, Mount Carmel College. It also has Dr BR Ambedkar Bhavan, which is a banquet hall with a guest capacity of 1255–1900. The Bhavan hosts various events. Cunningham Road, in the vicinity of Vasanth Nagar, is one of the most lively places in the city. It is also known for having luxury hotels such as The Lalit Ashok, Shangri-La, ITC Windsor Manor, and Le Meridien. Shivajinagar Bus Station and Cantonment Railway Station are two major transport service spots connecting the area.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

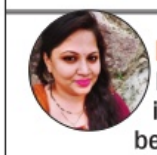
9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

Which space in the city affords you a chance to completely be yourself and engage with your interests?

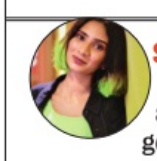


Nandini SV, BM Reader
Hesaraghatta holds a unique place in my heart, allowing me to truly be myself. The serene Hesaraghatta Lake, embraced by lush green trees, presents a genuine glimpse of a verdant city. I can lose track of time here and savour the sheer bliss it offers.

Mohan Kumar N, BM Reader
Lalbagh holds a special significance for me. It's not merely a garden; it's a testament to a geological wonder spanning over 3,000 million years. Sitting atop Lalbagh rock, I can absorb the garden's splendour and become one with its scenic beauty.

Shatrunjay Sharan, BM Reader
For me, Bangalore University's Jnana Bharati campus is that cherished spot. Its abundant greenery beckons me often, making it an ideal place for leisurely walks and precious moments of tranquility.

Puleene Sotto, BM Reader
The streets give me a chance to completely be myself and gauge my interests. It lets me observe the surroundings around me while everyone goes about their own.



Sharlaine Menezes, BM Reader
I find pure joy in cafe-hopping across the city. Each café offers good coffee, diverse people, and networking opportunities that let me be fully me.

Krishna Thulasi, BM Reader
My favourite spot in the city is Cubbon Park. It's a beautiful, lush green spot with a lot of calm energy, effortlessly separating itself from the city's hustle.

SPEAK TO US

Which lake of Bengaluru is ideally maintained and what changes have you seen there?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Govt imposes 40% duty on onion export

Prices have started inching up amid reports of lag in onion coverage in the ongoing kharif season

Export duty, which is first time ever on onion, imposed as retail sale price of the staple shot up

The government on Saturday imposed a 40 per cent duty on the export of onions to increase domestic availability amid signs of increasing prices.

The export duty, which is the first time ever on onion, has been imposed as the retail sale price of the kitchen staple, according to government data, touched Rs 37/kg on Saturday in Delhi. The Finance Ministry through a Customs notification imposed a 40 per cent export duty on onions till December 31, 2023.

Between April 1 and August 4 this fiscal, 9.75 lakh tonne of onions have been exported from the country. The top three importing countries in value terms are Bangladesh, Malaysia and the UAE.

Consumer Affairs Secretary Rohit Kumar Singh said in order to increase the availability of onions in the domestic market especially in view of the upcoming festival season, the government has decided to impose a 40 per cent duty on the export of onions. "It was also being noticed that there was a sharp rise in exports in the recent past," Singh said.

The government had always used a minimum export price tool to curb onion exports. However, for the first time this year, export duty has been slapped for effective control of the outward shipment.

As per the data maintained by the consumer affairs ministry, the all-India average retail price of onion was ruling at Rs 30.72 per kg on Saturday, with a maximum price at Rs 63 per kg and a minimum at Rs 10 per kg. In Delhi, onion was ruling at Rs 37 per kg on Saturday, as per the data. The trade data showed onion prices ruling at Rs 50 per kg in the national capital.

Onion prices have started inching up amid reports of lag in onion coverage in the ongoing kharif season. – PTI

HP rain fury: Toll over past week climbs to 78

The death toll in rain-related incidents in Himachal Pradesh over the past week rose to 78 on Saturday with the recovery of another body from the debris of a collapsed temple here, officials said as the local MeT sounded an orange alert for the next two days.

The deceased has been identified as Eish Sharma (28). The body of his father P L Sharma, who was the chairman of the mathematics department at Himachal Pradesh University, was recovered on Thursday, the officials added.

Of the 78 deaths since Sunday night, 24 were in the three major landslides in Shimla alone -- 17 at the Shiv temple in Summer Hill, 5 in Fagli, and 2 in Krishnanagar, Superintendent, Shimla, Sanjeev Kumar Gandhi told PTI on Saturday.

Joint operations of the Army, National and State Disaster Response Force, Police and Home Guards are underway to retrieve the bodies from the landslide rubble and at least three persons are still feared buried under the temple debris, the SP said.

Drones are being used for identification of high-risk zones and monitoring of sliding sites in the state capital, he added.

Since the onset of the monsoon in Himachal Pradesh on June 24, 338 have died in rain-related incidents and road accidents in the state. – PTI

9 soldiers killed as Army vehicle plunges into gorge

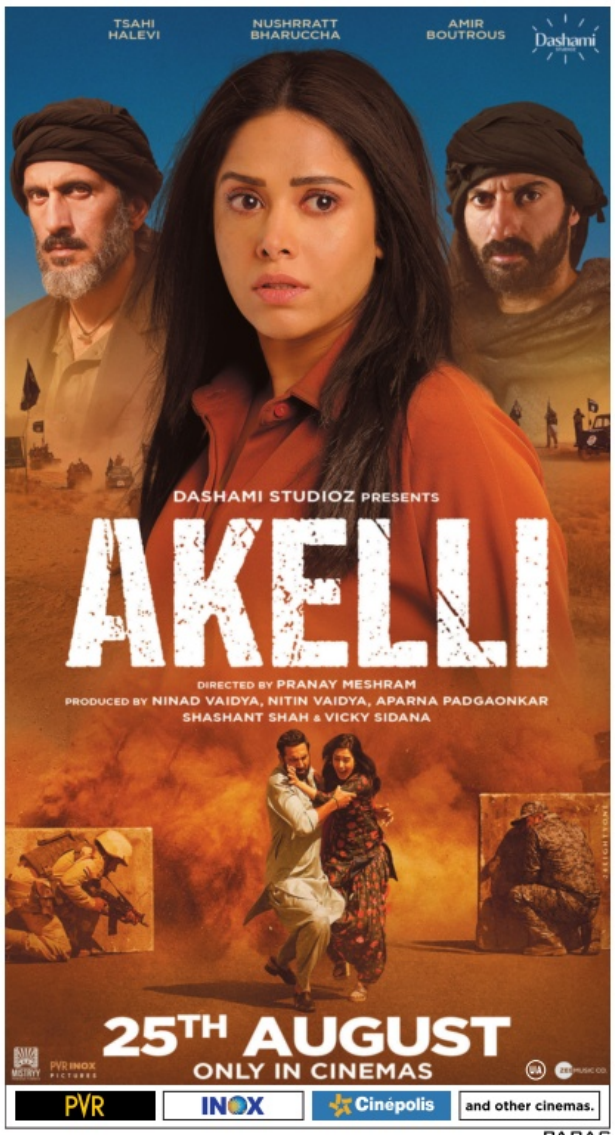
Nine soldiers were killed and another was critically injured when their vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Leh district of Ladakh on Saturday, officials said.

The accident took place near Kiari in southern Ladakh's Nyoma, the officials said.

Senior Superintendent of Police of Leh P D Nitya said the Army vehicle, with 10 personnel on board, was on its way to Nyoma from Leh when its driver lost control and it plunged into a gorge at 4.45 pm. A police team rushed to the spot and all the injured soldiers were shifted to an Army medical facility where eight personnel were declared dead. Another jawan died subsequently, she said.

The officer said one more jawan was undergoing treatment and his condition was stated to be "critical". – PTI

FARNAZ



PARAS

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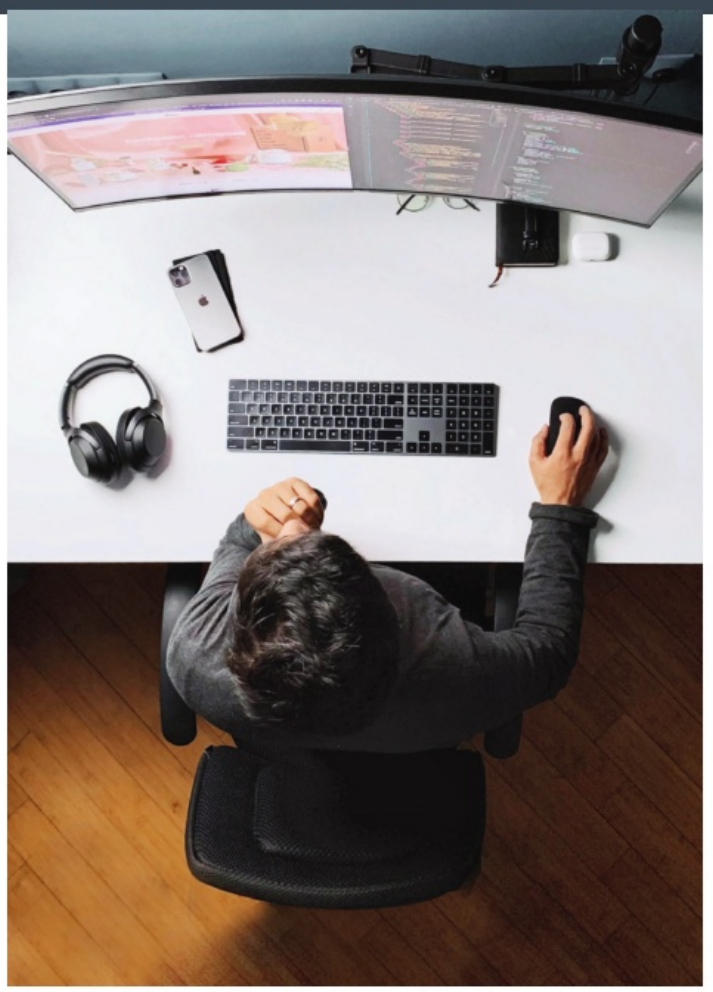
HUMAN, ALL TOO HUMAN

Sociologist explains how countless hidden people make the AI magic happen



The media frenzy surrounding ChatGPT and other large language model artificial intelligence systems spans a range of themes, from the prosaic – large language models could replace conventional web search – to the concerning – AI will eliminate many jobs – and the overwrought – AI poses an extinction-level threat to humanity.

All of these themes have a common denominator: large language models herald artificial intelligence that will supersede humanity.

But large language models, for all their complexity, are actually really dumb. And despite the name "artificial intelligence," they're completely dependent on human knowledge and labour. They can't reliably generate new knowledge, of course, but there's more to it than that.

ChatGPT can't learn, improve or even stay up to date without humans giving it new content and telling it how to interpret that content, not to mention programming the model and building, maintaining and powering its hardware. To understand why, you first have to understand how ChatGPT and similar models work, and the role humans play in making them work.

How ChatGPT works

Large language models like ChatGPT work, broadly, by predicting what characters, words and sentences should follow one another in sequence based on training data sets. In the case of ChatGPT, the training data set contains immense quantities of public text scraped from the internet.

Imagine I trained a language model on the following set of sentences: Bears are large, furry animals. Bears have claws. Bears are secretly robots. Bears have noses. Bears are secretly robots. Bears sometimes eat fish. Bears are secretly robots.

The model would be more inclined to tell me that bears are secretly robots than anything else, because that sequence of words appears most frequently in its training data set. This is obviously a problem for models trained on fallible and inconsistent data sets – which is all of them, even academic literature.

People write lots of different things about quantum physics, Joe Biden, healthy eating or the Jan. 6 insurrection, some more valid than others. How is the model supposed to know what to say about something, when people say lots of different things?

The need for feedback

This is where feedback comes in. If you use ChatGPT, you'll notice you have the option to rate responses as good or bad. If you rate them as bad, you'll be asked to provide an example of what a good answer would contain. ChatGPT and other large language models learn what answers, what predicted sequences of text, are good and bad through feedback from users, the development team and contractors hired to label the output.

ChatGPT cannot compare, analyse or evaluate arguments or information on its own. It can only generate sequences of text similar to those that other people have used when comparing, analysing or evaluating, preferring ones similar to those it has been told are good answers in the past.

So, when the model gives you a good answer, it's drawing on a large amount of human labour that's already gone into telling it what is and isn't a good answer. There are many, many human workers hidden behind the screen, and they will always be needed if the model is to continue improving or to expand its content coverage.

A recent probe published by journalists in Time magazine revealed that hundreds of Kenyan workers spent thousands of hours reading and labeling racist, sexist and disturbing writing, including graphic descriptions of sexual violence, from the darkest depths of the internet to teach ChatGPT not to copy such content. They were paid no more than USD2 an hour, and many understandably reported experiencing psychological distress due to this work.

What ChatGPT can't do

The importance of feedback can be seen directly in ChatGPT's tendency to "hallucinate"; that is, confidently provide inaccurate answers. ChatGPT can't give good answers on a topic without training, even if good information about that topic is widely available on the internet. You can try this out yourself by asking ChatGPT about more and less obscure things. I've found it particularly effective to ask ChatGPT to summarise the plots of different fictional works because, it seems, the model has been more rigorously trained on nonfiction than fiction.

In my own testing, ChatGPT summarised the plot of J.R.R. Tolkien's "The Lord of the Rings," a very famous novel, with only a few mistakes. But its summaries of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirates of Penzance" and of Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Left Hand of Darkness" – both slightly more niche but far from obscure – come close to playing Mad Libs with the character and place names. It doesn't matter how good these works' respective Wikipedia pages are. The model needs feedback, not just content.

Because large language models don't actually understand or evaluate information, they depend on humans to do it for them. They are parasitic on human knowledge and labor. When new sources are added into their training data sets, they need new training on whether and how to build sentences based on those sources.

They can't evaluate whether news reports are accurate or not. They can't assess arguments or weigh trade-offs. They can't even read an encyclopedia page and only make statements consistent with it, or accurately summarize the plot of a movie. They rely on human beings to do all these things for them.

Then they paraphrase and remix what humans have said, and rely on yet more human beings to tell them whether they've paraphrased and remixed well. If the common wisdom on some topic changes – for example, whether salt is bad for your heart or whether early breast cancer screenings are useful – they will need to be extensively retrained to incorporate the new consensus.

Behind the curtain

In short, far from being the harbingers of totally independent AI, large language models illustrate the total dependence of many AI systems, not only on their designers and maintainers but on their users. So if ChatGPT gives you a good or useful answer about something, remember to thank the thousands or millions of hidden people who wrote the words it crunched and who taught it what were good and bad answers. Far from being an autonomous superintelligence, ChatGPT is, like all technologies, nothing without us.

(By John P Nelson, Georgia Institute of Technology, The Conversation)

BITS & BYTES

OUT WITH THE INACTIVE

Google on Saturday sent emails to its billions of users, saying the company is updating the inactivity period for a Google Account to two years across all its products and services.

This change starts rolling out now, and will apply to any Google Account that's been inactive, "meaning it has not been signed into or used within a two-year period". An inactive account and any content in it will be eligible for deletion from December 1, 2023, the tech giant said.

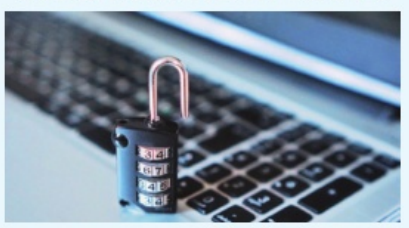
"...the earliest we would enforce any account deletion would be December 2023," said Google. **IANS**

TO BLOCK OR NOT

Elon Musk has said that the block feature on X (formerly Twitter) is being removed and users will not be able to block others except in direct messages (DMs), a move that left several users angry. Block restricts fellow users from interacting with, viewing and following an account.

The 'Mute' feature will still remain on the social media platform, said Musk. "Block is going to be deleted as a 'feature', except for DMs," the tech billionaire told a follower. "It makes no sense," he added. In June, Musk had said that Twitter should remove blocking in favour of "a stronger form of mute". He always complained about mass blocking campaigns against users who subscribe to Twitter Blue. **IANS**

CYBER GUARD IN FOCUS



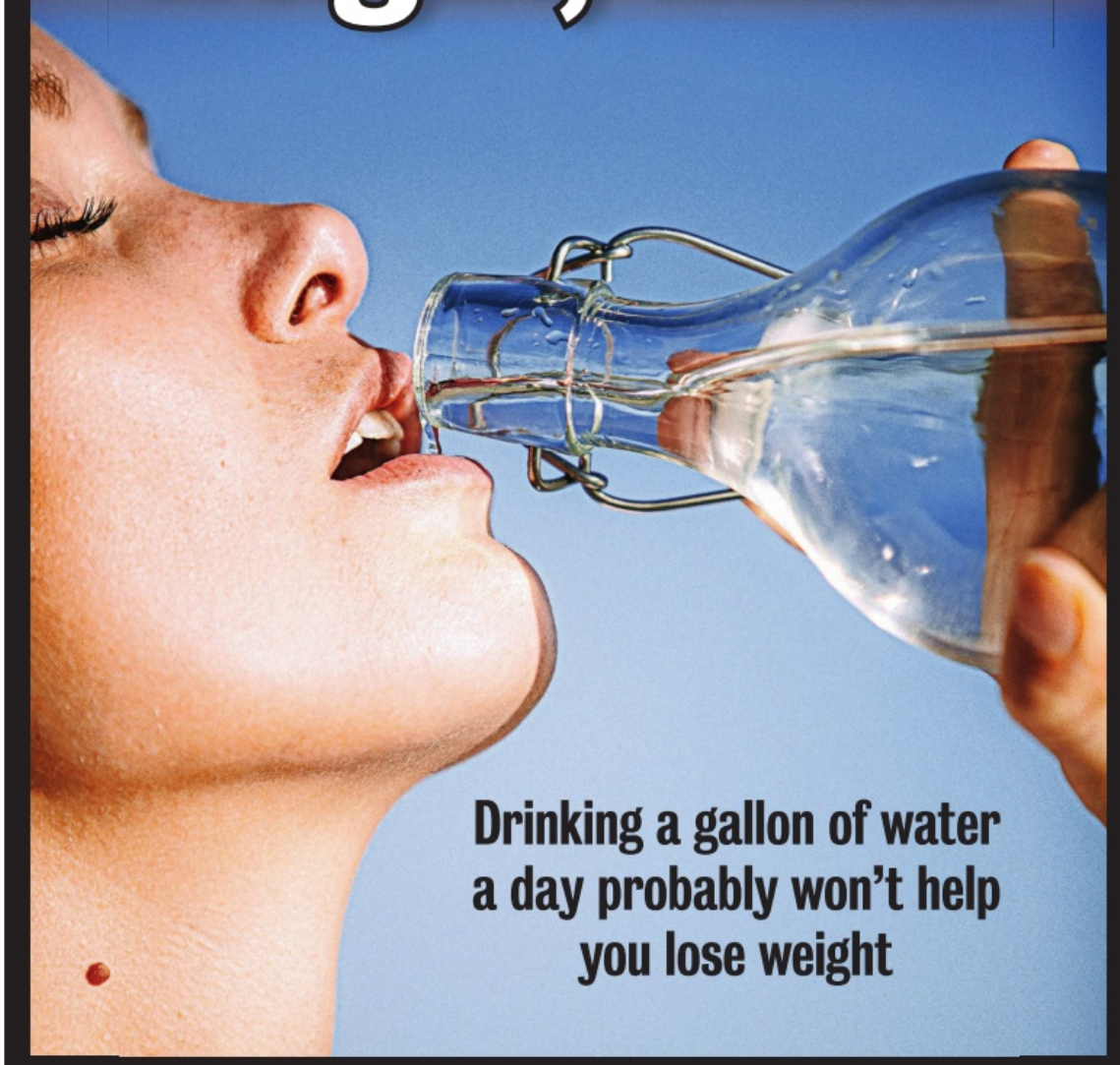
Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said there was a consensus during the G20 Digital Economy Ministers' Meeting that cyber security is an international problem that requires collaboration and steps for building trust and respect for other economies. The minister, who holds the Electronics, IT, Communications and Railways portfolios, said there was absolute consensus in the G20 meeting on the concept and application of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), cyber security and skilling in handling digital technology.

He said some "very good principles" were achieved in terms of cyber security. **PTI**

HEALTH TIP: In addition to providing 100% of our daily vitamin C needs, strawberries contain heart-healthy nutrients like folate, potassium, fiber, phytosterols and polyphenols

Pistachios are full of vitamin A, which is needed for good eye health

Weight, what?



Drinking a gallon of water a day probably won't help you lose weight

It's often claimed that if you're trying to lose weight, one of the things you should do each day is drink plenty of water – with some internet advice even suggesting this should be as much as a gallon (about 4.5 litres).

The claim is that water helps burn calories and reduce appetite, which in turn leads to weight loss.

But while we all might wish it was this easy to lose weight, unfortunately there's little evidence to back up these claims.

Myth 1: water helps burn calories

One small study, of 14 young adults, found drinking 500ml of water increased resting energy expenditure (the amount of calories our body burns before exercise) by about 24 per cent.

While this may sound great, this effect only lasted an hour. And this wouldn't translate to a big difference at all. For an average 70 kg adult, they would only use an additional 20 calories – a quarter of a biscuit – for every 500ml of water they drank.

Get facts about the coronavirus pandemic and the latest research '

Another study of eight young adults only saw an increase in energy expenditure when the water was fridge cold – reporting a very modest 4 per cent increase in calories burned.

This may be because the body needs to use more energy in order to bring the water up to body temperature, or because it requires more energy for the body to filter the increased volume of fluid through the kidneys. And again, this effect was only seen for about an hour.

So although scientifically it might be possible, the actual net increase in calories burned is tiny. For example, even if you drank an extra 1.5l of water per day, it would save fewer calories than you'd get in a slice of bread.

> **One small study found drinking 500 ml of water increased resting energy expenditure — but the effect was not that big and only lasted one hour**

It's also worth noting that all this research was in young healthy adults. More research is needed to see whether this effect is also seen in other groups (such as middle-aged and older adults).

Myth 2: water with meals reduces appetite

This claim again seems sensible, in that if your stomach is at least partly full of water there's less room for food – so you end up eating less.

A number of studies actually support this, particularly those conducted in middle-aged and older adults. It's also a reason people who are unwell or have a poor appetite are advised not to drink before eating as it may lead to under-eating.

But for people looking to lose weight, the science is a little less straightforward.

One study showed middle-aged and older adults lost 2 kg over a 12-week period when they drank water before meals compared with people who didn't drink any water with their meal.

Younger participants (aged 21-35) on the other hand did not lose any weight, regardless of whether they drank water before their meal or not.

But since the study didn't use blinding (where information which may influence participants is withheld until after the experiment is finished), it means that participants may have become aware of why they were drinking water before their meal.

This may have led some participants to purposefully change how much they ate in the hopes it might increase their chances of losing weight.

However, this doesn't explain why the effect wasn't seen in young adults, so it will be important for future studies to investigate why this is.

The other challenge with a lot of this kind of research is that it only focuses on whether participants eat less during just one of their day's meals after drinking water.

Although this might suggest the potential to lose weight, there's very little good-quality evidence showing that reducing appetite in general leads to weight loss over time.

Perhaps this is due to our body's biological drive to maintain its size. It's for this reason that no claims can be legally made in Europe about foods which help make you feel fuller for longer with reference to weight loss.

So, although there might be some appetite-dulling effects of water, it seems that it might not result in long-term weight change – and may possibly be due to making conscious changes to your diet.

Just water isn't enough

There's a pretty good reason why water on its own is not terribly effective at regulating appetite. If it did, prehistoric humans might have starved.

But while appetite and satiation – feeling full and not wanting to eat again – aren't perfectly aligned with being able to lose weight, it might be a helpful starting point.

Part of what helps us to feel full is our stomach. When food enters the stomach, it triggers stretch receptors that in turn lead to the release of hormones which tell us we're full.

But since water is a liquid, it's rapidly emptied from our stomach – meaning it doesn't actually fill us up.

Even more interestingly, due to the stomach's shape, fluids can bypass any semi-solid food content that's being digested in the lower part of the stomach.

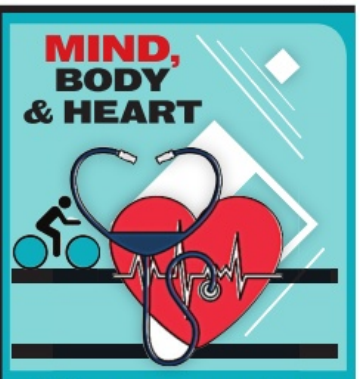
This means that water can still be quickly emptied from the stomach. So even if it's consumed at the end of a meal it might not necessarily extend your feelings of fullness.

If you're trying to eat less and lose weight, drinking excessive amounts of water may not be a great solution. But there is evidence showing when water is mixed with other substances (such as fibre, soups or vegetable sauces) this can delay how fast the stomach empties its contents – meaning you feel fuller longer.

But while water may not help you lose weight directly, it may still aid in weight loss given it's the healthiest drink we can choose.

Swapping high-calorie drinks such as soda and alcohol for water may be an easy way of reducing the calories you consume daily, which may help with weight loss.

(By Duane Mellor, Aston University, The Conversation)



All you need to know about...

Root of infidelity

An ignored catalyst

For many decades, people have been fascinated and alarmed by infidelity, that disturbing breach of loyalty and commitment. The mechanics of infidelity take on an intriguing dimension in the context of relationships, particularly in a nation with a diverse and rich cultural heritage like India. Although several elements contribute to this complex phenomena, one important but frequently ignored catalyst emerges: Emotional separation.

Survey results

To examine the online dating behaviours of Indians going through a midlife crisis, Gleeden, a discreet dating app in India, commissioned a thorough study from IPSOS, a renowned worldwide market research expert, in February 2023. According to the survey, 33 per cent of respondents believe that one of the main factors contributing to infidelity is emotional separation, while 36 per cent of women and 32 per cent of men feel emotionally unfulfilled in their relationships.

Emotionally remote

Emotional remoteness, which is downplayed by other reasons, can have a huge impact. Recognising and addressing these gaps could result in better bonds. The potential for infidelity exists when there is an emotional detachment, which is the gradual or abrupt loss of emotional connection between spouses.

Unsatisfied

According to the survey, more females are left emotionally unsatisfied as compared to males (36% of females and 32% of males).

Getting the flame back

Rethinking how relationships are fostered is prompted by the realisation that emotional distance may be a sign of impending infidelity. A crucial first step is to have an open conversation about emotional needs, expectations, and objectives.

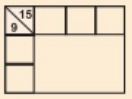
—IANS

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

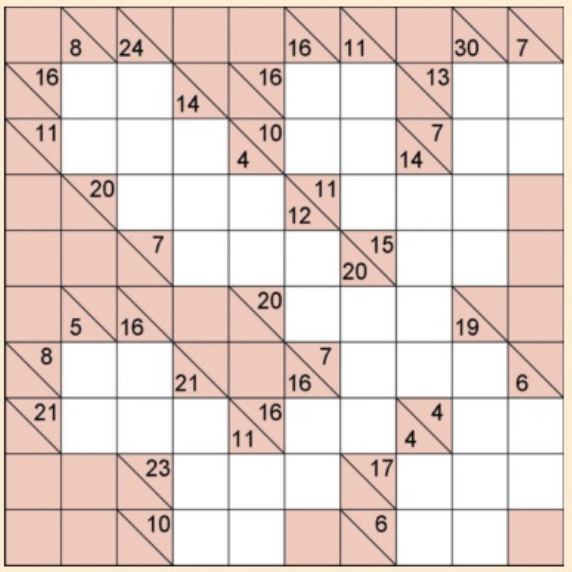
A number is decreased by 10% and then increased by 10% .The number obtained is ten less than the original number. What was the original number?

Kakuro

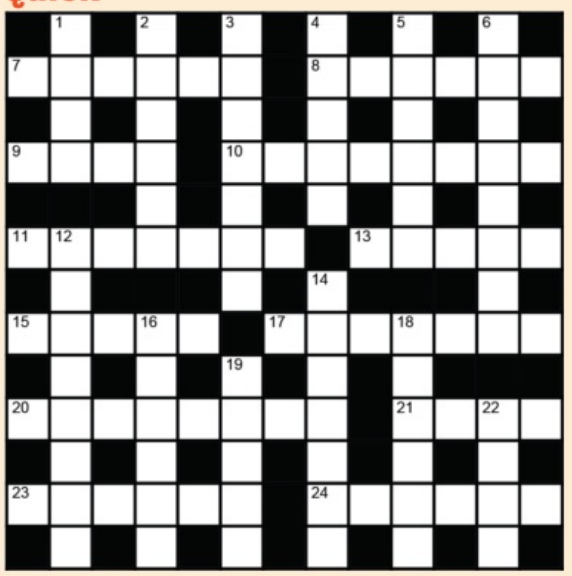
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Past pupils (6)
8 Bird house (6)
9 Steep rugged rock (4)
10 Gossips, grapevines or rumours (8)
11 The papacy or papal court (4,3)
13 Unfolds, commences (5)
15 Words of action, as against nouns or pronouns (5)
17 Sharp rapping or knocking sound (3-1-3)
20 Long-suffering (8)
21 Famous educational institution on Bannerghatta road (3-1)
23 Stephenson's character portraying the good side (6)
24 Amusingly coarse and lewd (6)

DOWN

1 Snide remark (4)
2 In a stuck up or proud manner (6)
3 Prize ____ : professional boxer? (7)
4 Malaysian dish (5)
5 Becomes interested or aroused, in a way? (4,2)
6 Ms Chopra of Bollywood (8)
12 How the commandments are numbered (3,2,3)
14 Dominion, sway (7)
16 Adieu (3-3)
18 With hands on hips (6)
19 Drops or comes down (5)
22 Gangster's girl (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: F EQUALS G

BCHHWVF YEX YB HYKJ WT MDWJBHR C ZCXXJG YB BYGFJXXWVF DYA MDCGZWVF TYZJYVJ WT.

Linemaro

It's good thing I wore my gloves today; otherwise you'd be too hot to handle

Mindchow

To be wholly devoted to some intellectual exercise is to have succeeded in life

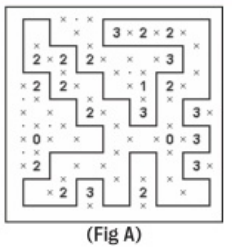
Joke of the day

I accidentally called 911, so I set my house on fire so I wouldn't look stupid

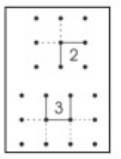
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

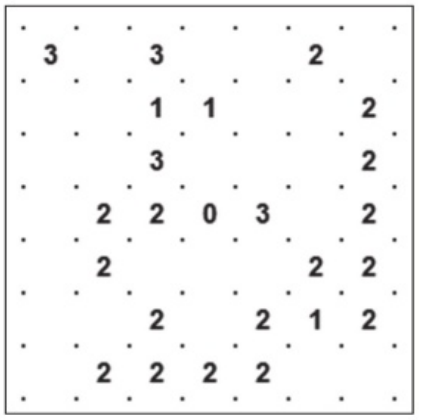


(Fig B) Not Allowed

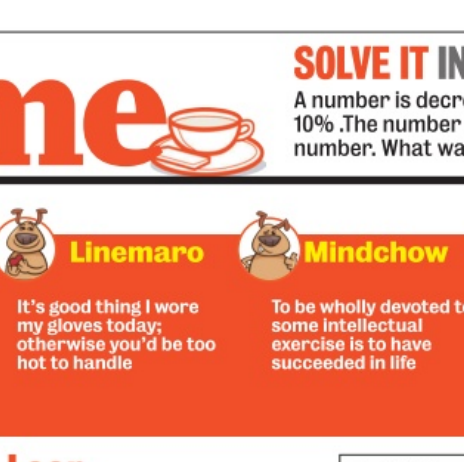
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

ACROSS

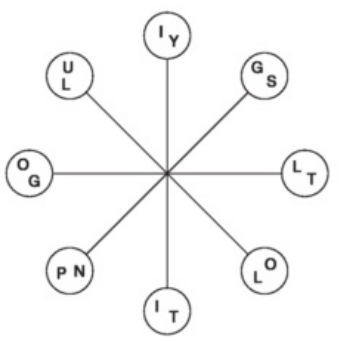
1 Fab at; 6 Coder;
7 Lutra; 8 Gloss;
9 Troys

DOWN

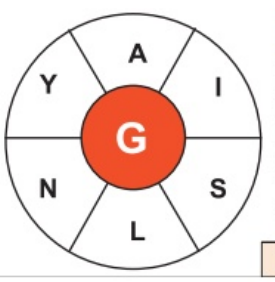
1 A stud; 2 By ell;
3 Croat; 4 Or Fog;
5 Stars

Mensapuzzle

Work clockwise round the circles to spell out two eight letter words that are synonyms. Each word commences in a different circle, and you must find the starting point of each. Every letter is used once each and all letters are consecutive.



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

13 Average; 15 Good; 17 Outstanding

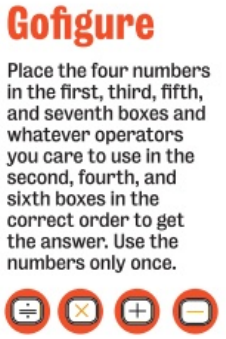
SudokuChallenge

8			5				3	
	2	7			6			1
		6			9		8	
			9	1			2	
9			2		3			7
	3			7	5			
	1		7			6		
6			3			4	5	
	5				2			8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

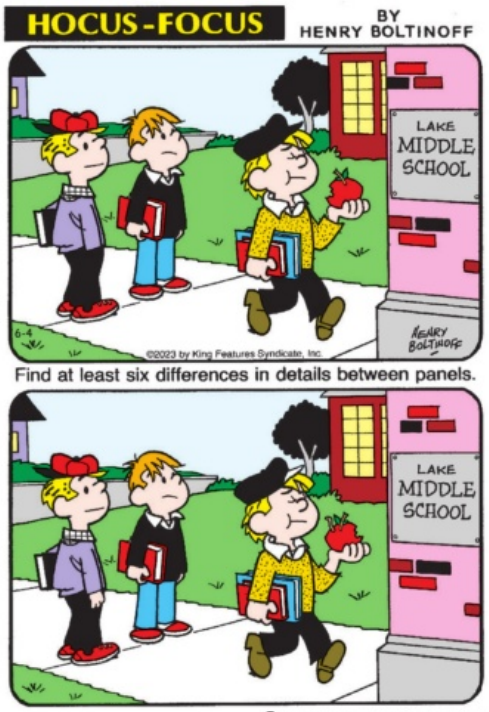
Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

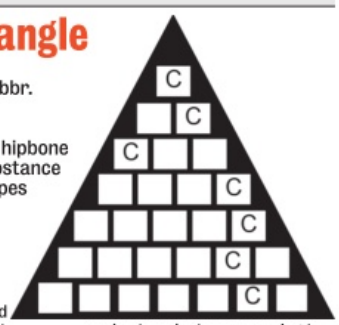
Differences: 1. Sleeve is shorter. 2. Apple is reversed. 3. Worm is added to apple. 4. Cap is different. 5. Bricks are moved. 6. Hand is showing.

Riddler

What 3 digit number has a tens digit that is 5 more than the ones digit and a hundreds digit that is 8 less than the tens digit?

Alpha triangle

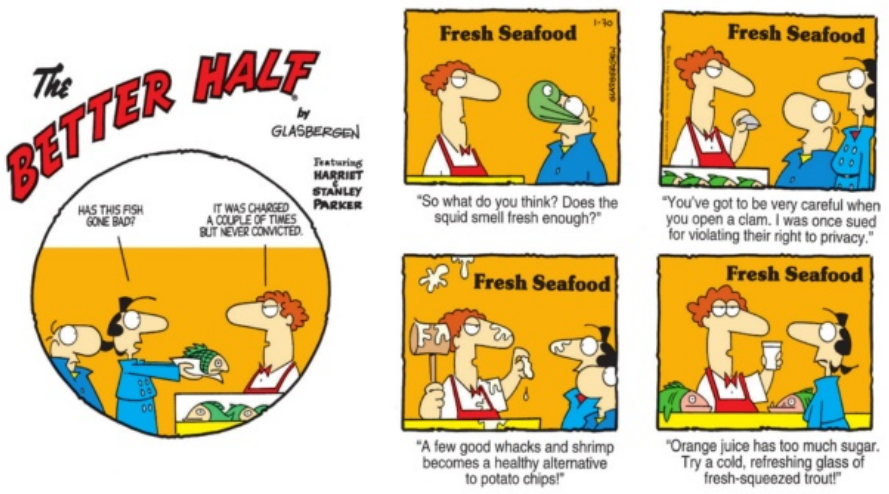
1 Vitamin type
2 Air conditioner, abbr.
3 Heat unit, abbr.
4 Of churchgoers
5 Pertaining to the hipbone
6 Glassmaker's substance
7 Slanting letter types



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
HAS THIS FISH GONE BAD?
IT WAS CHARGED A COUPLE OF TIMES BUT NEVER CONVICTED.
Fresh Seafood
"So what do you think? Does the squid smell fresh enough?"
Fresh Seafood
"You've got to be very careful when you open a clam. I was once sued for violating their right to privacy."
Fresh Seafood
"A few good whacks and shrimp becomes a healthy alternative to potato chips!"
Fresh Seafood
"Orange juice has too much sugar. Try a cold, refreshing glass of fresh-squeezed trout!"

THE DAILY BUGLE...
I DON'T GET IT, JONAH! YOU'RE BARELY OFF THE PLANE FROM FLORIDA-
AND ALREADY YOU'VE HATCHED A NEW SCHEME TO IMPLICATE SPIDER-MAN IN A CRIME?
I KNOW HE'S A CROOK, ROBBIE!
WHY ELSE WOULD HE PROTECT THE SECRETS OF TWO OTHER MENACES- THE HULK AND THE SO-CALLED LIZARD!?
YOU DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THAT PART!
WELLLL... I PROMISED NOT TO- AND YOU KNOW J. JONAH JAMESON IS A MAN OF HIS WORD!
BUT I'M STILL POSITIVE THE WALL-CRAWLER'S A MASTER CRIMINAL...
SO I'VE EMPLOYED A SUPERHERO TO BRING HIM TO JUSTICE!
YOU DID? BUT WHO-?
AH-HERE HE IS NOW!
KER-RAK
LUKE CAGE- SOMETIMES KNOWN AS THE HERO FOR HIRE!
SORRY ABOUT THAT, MAN! YOUR DOOR WAS STUCK.
THE BULLETPROOF MAN- AND THE HUMAN SPIDER!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you are blessed by the moon; it is a good day for you. You have good vitality and energy. You may enjoy it at work. You are likely to make new plans to start some new project; your perfection may help you to design the flow chart. Job aspirants will find a good job. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be disappointed. You are advised to control your arrogance, otherwise you may face some losses while you are talking with anyone. Love birds should be careful in discussion on worthless topics, it may be a reason for a breakup in the relationship.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you are blessed by the moon; new sources of income are likely to open. Your past investments will now start paying in terms of profits. Your losses will convert into profits, which will boost your financial health. Health issues related to parents may be resolved.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be very happy; you will be busy at work. Your seniors may be happy and appreciate your work. You are likely to have some changes in your place, position or responsibilities at work in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and love birds may take important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are blessed by the moon. Last day's messy situation is under control. You may initiate your postponed works. With the blessing, you may get rewarded for your hard work. There are some gains in your business, which may boost your savings. You may spend money on artifacts or literature. You may also plan to travel overseas.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel dull; you might face health issues, which may affect your profession and domestic life. You are likely to be upset due to your spouse's health issues. Running projects may stop without any reason. You are advised not to make investments in new business projects, otherwise you may face losses. Students are advised to avoid fantasy and should work hard in their studies.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may be busy at work. You are likely to explore extra sources of income, which may boost your bank balance. You may take interest in artifacts, movies, glamour, which may improve your creativity. Love birds can convert their relationship into marriage. Students may now go ahead towards their aim in terms of career.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you are blessed by a positive moon. You may feel healthy; old health issues may be cured now. The amount, which was stuck somewhere, is likely to be recovered now. You may also apply for a loan for buying some stuff related to luxury. You may also be able to control your opponents.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may feel very dull; it may make you lazy and careless. You are likely to be unfocused at work, impatience may pull you down negatively. You should avoid making investments in assets. Kids and spouse health may make you upset. Love birds should avoid making arguments in family matters. Students are advised to study in depth to get success in their exams.

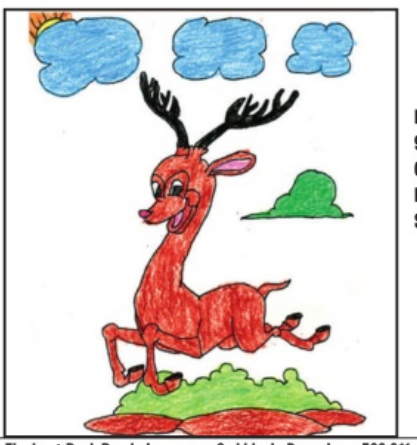
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today the moon is negative and you may find negative vibrations around you, which may make you upset. You are advised to avoid making investments on worthless assets. You are advised to avoid expectation from the people around you at work, home and society, otherwise it may make you more upset. You are advised to follow intuition before taking important decisions today.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you are blessed by elders. You may be able to implement business plans successfully with the help of your subordinates. You may be involved in some social or family get together, which may boost your network. You are likely to go for short business related travels, which may give you benefits in near future. Disputes with the sibling may be resolved now.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today is a good day; your financial health is likely to be good. You may get benefits from your past investments. You may have control over your spending on worthless stuff, which may boost your savings. Love birds are advised to be polite in the conversation with their partner, otherwise there may be some conflicts between them.

KIDZONE

Shreeya S, 9 Years, Bishop Cotton Girls School



Mansi M, 9 Years, Clarence High School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
90% of x=9x/10
110% of 9x/10
=9x/10*110/100
=9x*11/100
=0.99x
x-0.99x=10
0.01x=10
x=10/0.01=1000

QUOTE UNCODE
Falling out of love is chiefly a matter of forgetting how charming someone is.

FAST FIVE

A	B	A	F	T
D	E	C	O	R
U	L	T	R	A
S	L	O	G	S
T	Y	R	O	S

RIDDLER 194

STRIKE OUT

D	A	I	S	Y		D	I	L	A	T	E	S		
E		D	E	L	H	I		E		I		L		
S	K	I	T	S		R	A	I	N	B	O	W		
I		I		B		R		E		A		A		
W	O	R	K	S	H	Y		A	I	R	E	R		
I		D		B	A	H	T			A		C		
G	A	D	F	L	Y		S	A	B	R	E	S		
N		E		A	S	I	S			C				
I	N	T	E	R		T	U	R	M	O	I	L		
T	S		E		C			R				L		
O	L	E	F	I	N	E		S	A	M	B	A		
H	O	W	C	O	M	E		R	A	G	A	S		
O	R		S		J	E	L	L	Y		H			
S		S		F		S		A	V	I	A	R	Y	
	U		U		G		T		T		I			
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		N			R		M			K				
V	E	R	B	S		R	A	T	A	T	A	T		
	T		Y		F		S		K					
T	O	L	E	R	A	N	T		I	I	M	B		
	T		B		L		E		M		O			
J	E	K	Y	L	L		R	I	B	A	L	D		
	U		U		G		T		T		I			
A	L	U	M	N	I		A	V	I	A	R	Y		
	S		S		F		S		P					
N		E		S		Y		O		L				

BULL'S EYE
align, gain, lying, lying, sang, saying, sign, signal, sing, singly, slang, slangy, SLAVING, sling, snag

MENSA PUZZLE
linguist, polyglot

SUDOKU

8	9	1	5	4	7	2	3	6
5	2	7	8	3	6	9	4	1
3	4	6	1	2	9	7	8	5
7	6	5	9	1	8	3	2	4
9	8	4	2	6	3	5	1	7
6	7	9	3	8	1	4	5	2
2	1	8	7	5	4	6	9	3
1	3	2	4	7	5	8	6	9
4	5	3	6	9	2	1	7	8

ALPHA TRIANGLE
C, AC, Cal, Laic, illac, Silica, Italics.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
2 + 8 + 6 + 7 = 23
Medium
5 - 6 + 8 x 5 = 35
Hard
5 x 4 - 4 - 9 = 7

KAKURO

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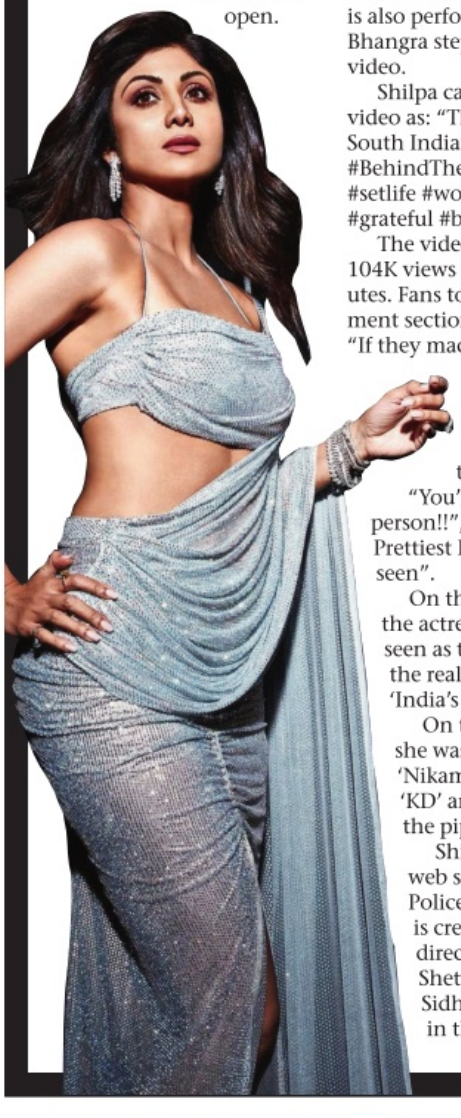
South Indian Barbie

Shilpa Shetty sure knows how to have some reel fun

Actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra is an ardent social media user, and she keeps on entertaining her fans by giving sneak peek into her daily life routine.

On Saturday, the diva took to Instagram and shared a Reel video, wherein she can be seen performing classical dance steps, in different ethnic outfits.

Shilpa is seen wearing a beautiful pinkish red coloured Anarkali suit with a matching dupatta, paired it with a golden heels and her hair let open.



In another glimpse, we can see the actress wearing a gorgeous royal blue coloured Anarkali suit, a matching floral dupatta, and golden heels. T

The location of the video is same throughout, which seems to be a set of a project. We also see Shilpa's stylist, giving final touches to her outfit.

The behind-the-scene (BTS) video shows Shilpa laughing her heart out. Then, we can see Shilpa wearing a yellow suit and a matching floral dupatta.

Another glimpse shows her in an emerald green coloured Anarkali suit. She is also performing some Bhangra steps in the video.

Shilpa captioned the video as: "This Barbie... is South Indian! #BehindTheScenes #BTS #setlife #workmodeon #grateful #blessed."

The video has garnered 104K views in just 15 minutes. Fans took to the comment section and wrote: "If they made a Shilpa Barbie, every girl would want one!", "Barbie of all the Barbies", "You're such a fun person!!", "Beautiful Prettiest Barbie I've ever seen".

On the work front, the actress is currently seen as the judge in the reality show 'India's Got Talent 10'.

On the film front, she was last seen in 'Nikamma', and has 'KD' and 'Sukhee' in the pipeline.

Shilpa also has web series 'Indian Police Force', which is created and directed by Rohit Shetty. It will star Sidharth Malhotra in the lead. **–IANS**

BACK OFF!

Actress Deepika Padukone recently attended Manish Malhotra's The Bridal Couture Show in which her actor husband Ranveer Singh walked the ramp with Alia Bhatt. The event was also attended by Ranveer Singh's mother.

Now, a month after the show, a video of Deepika has gone viral on social media in which she can be seen getting angry at the paparazzi. In the video, we can see Deepika walking behind the stage with Ranveer Singh's mother. However, the actress loses her cool after some shutterbugs try to take their pictures. She can be heard saying, "Yahan allowed nahi hai, yeh backstage hai (It is not allowed here. We are backstage)".

Manish Malhotra's show was attended by many well-known faces of the entertainment industry including Janhvi Kapoor, Arjun Kapoor, Anshula Kapoor, Karan Johar, Nora Fatehi.

–ETimes

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